

# FISCAL NOTE

**Bill #:** SB0291

**Title:** Quality home school and child protection act

**Primary Sponsor:** Ryan, D

**Status:** As Introduced

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Ewer, Budget Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Fiscal Summary

	<b><u>FY 2006 Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2007 Difference</u></b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Fund	\$7,700	\$7,700
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact on General Fund Balance:</b>	(\$7,700)	(\$7,700)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov. Impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget         | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 |

## Fiscal Analysis

### ASSUMPTIONS:

- For the FY2004-2005 school year, there are 3,971 home school students registered with the county superintendents.
  - Kindergarten: 107 registered home school students
  - Grades 1-8: 2,932 registered home school students
  - Grades 9-12: 932 registered home school students
- Of these students, it is estimated that 400 home school students are 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 330 are 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and 230 are 11<sup>th</sup> graders. SB 291 would require home schoolers in Grades 4, 8 and 11 to take the Iowa Tests. The contract amount for OPI's contract with Riverside Publishing company would need to be increased by approximately \$7,700 annually to include testing for an additional 960 students.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

	<b><u>FY 2006 Difference</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2007 Difference</u></b>
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>		
Operating Expenses-testing	\$7,700	\$7,700

## Fiscal Note Request SB0291, As Introduced

(continued)

### Funding of Expenditures:

General Fund (01)	\$7,700	\$7,700
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### Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):

General Fund (01)	(\$7,700)	(\$7,700)
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### EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

1. The primary enforcement of laws and monitoring of home schools would be responsibility of the local school district.
2. If a child's composite score on the standardized test is less than the 30<sup>th</sup> national percentile rank (NPR), the school district must appoint an assessment team to assess the child for a potential learning problem. It is estimated that 3 out of 10 students will score less than the 30% NPR and will need to be assessed by the school district team. It is estimated that the cost of assessing a student would be \$1,500. The total cost is estimated to be \$432,000 to assess 288 students home school students annually.
3. Section 4 of SB 291 expands the requirement for a parent of a home school student to register with the child's resident public school district. This will create a small additional work load for public schools. No costs are included for this requirement.
4. Section 5 states that a parent may supervise a home school if the parent holds a Montana educator license or a baccalaureate degree, or if the home school is monitored by a licensed teacher. It is not known how many home school parents hold an educator's license or a baccalaureate degree. For the purposes of this fiscal note, it is assumed that the parents of 50% of the registered homeschool students hold such degrees. If it is assumed that the average home school includes 2 students, the number of parents that would need to be monitored is 993 and the number of parents that would need to be monitored.
5. It is estimated that statewide, 50 licensed teachers will be needed to monitor 993 home schools at an estimated cost of \$60,000 each for salary, benefits, travel costs and supplies. This would provide 6-8 hours of monitoring each month for each home school. The total annual cost is estimated to be \$3 million.
6. This cost would be spread throughout the state and born by local school districts. SB 291 does not provide a funding mechanism to get state funds to districts to cover these expenses. Without funding this would be an unfunded mandate on local districts.

### TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. A number of county superintendents currently provide the opportunity for home school students to take the Iowa tests. It is likely that the county superintendent administers the test at the county superintendent's office. It would not appear to interfere with the intent of the proposed legislation to allow that practice to continue, especially for those school districts for which the county superintendent is the administrative authority.
2. School districts will be responsible for determining if a home school parent meets the parental qualifications in Section 5. The information about whether an individual is licensed to teach in Montana is posted on the OPI webpage. It will be more difficult and time consuming for a school district to determine if a parent has a baccalaureate degree.